



CLA Conversion Plan Update

October 27, 2009

Department of Developmental Services

Community Living Arrangement (CLA) Conversion Plan

- Convert 17 Public CLAs (Group Homes) serving 93 people with intellectual disabilities to Private Provider operation.
- None of these 17 homes located throughout the state are closing or being sold.
- There will be an extensive transition and oversight process over six to nine months to assure families and clients that quality is maintained.

Reasons for Conversion Plan

- 395 DDS Employees chose the Retirement Incentive Program (RIP) of which 162 employees provided direct support and service to individuals living in DDS residential homes. None of these positions will be permanently refilled.
- Therefore, the DDS has determined it would be best to transfer 17 homes to the private sector in order to operate all of its current residential settings in a safe and effective manner.

Benefits of the Conversion Plan

- DDS CLAs that remain will continue to be staffed at the necessary level to meet the needs of the residents.
- All permanent state employees in the conversion homes will retain their jobs and will fill other state vacancies created by the RIP. They will be offered jobs with a one way commute that is no greater than his/her present commute or 30 miles from his/her current work location, whichever is greater.
- All residents will continue to live in their current home. The provider will change, but residents will NOT have to move.
- Family members and residents will be involved in the selection process of a new provider to assure their satisfaction.

Conversion Plan Savings

- When fully implemented, up to \$5 million will be saved by the state (Comptroller Benefits) and over \$2 million in DDS cost avoidance annually.

2003 Conversion

- In 2003, DDS successfully converted 30 homes to the private sector with minimal disruption and families and individual clients were quite satisfied with the change.
- From July 2007 through June 2009 there was no significant difference in compliance with state licensing regulations between the 30 conversion homes and all public sector homes.

Private Providers

- Of the 873 group homes in Connecticut, 778 are operated by the private sector prior to the conversion.
- DDS has 188 qualified private sector providers and some of those agencies have been operating programs in Connecticut for the past 40 years.
- In reviewing the quality information collected by the DDS Licensing Division for CLAs, the private sector generally has a lower rate of deficiencies than the public sector. Overall, people with disabilities receive good services from both the public and private sector.

Impact if Conversion Cancelled

- If DDS is unable to convert the 17 CLAs as planned we will need an additional 162 positions approved for direct support and an additional 23 RIP positions in support functions to operate these settings and all other residential programs safely. There is no approval for this additional number of positions.
- If these necessary direct support positions are not approved and deployed, DDS would be forced to close respite centers and stop providing in home family supports in order to transfer direct support staff to residential services. Currently 2400 families who have their children living at home make use of these support services.